(b) Data on employment and unemployment is available from the labour force sample surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation.

Increase in the quota of rationed items to West Bengal

2050. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government propose to increase the quota of rationed items to West Bengal owing to acute shortage and increasing prices during the Puja Festival; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) and (b) The allocation of rice, wheat, sugar and edible oils fixed for West Bengal for the months of August and September, 1990 is as follows:—

(Figures in M.Tonnes)

Commodity	August	September
Rice . .	74,000	84,000
Wheat . .	90,000	90,000
Levy Sugar . .	25,888	25,888
Imported Edible Oils	10,000	10,000

An increased allocation of 10 thousand tonnes of rice was made to West Bengal for the month of September, 1990 to meet the additional demand on account of Puja Festival. In case of sugar, a quantity of 3898 tonnes each for the months of September & October, 1990 has been released as Festival quota. For imported edible oils, the monthly allocation of West Bengal during August and September, 1990 is 10,000 tonnes each which is an increase of 4000 tonnes over the July allocation.

Decline in Returns from Wheat Cultivation

2051. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent study undertaken by the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chambers of Commerce and Industry has revealed that returns per hectare from wheat cultivation declined sharply;

(b) if so, the reasons put forward for decline in wheat yield per hectare; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Study does not speak of decline in yield per hectare. The yield of wheat has registered significant increases during the seventies and eighties. In order to further improve productivity, Special Foodgrains Production Programme supplementing the efforts of the State Governments and Minikit Programme of Wheat aimed at enlarging coverage of area under location specific high yielding varieties and adoption of improved wheat production technology in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi are being implemented.

Printed prices on packed items

2052. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices printed on the packed itmes are too far excessive and there is no relation between the cost of the product and the price; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to review the matter and to fix the margins of profit of the manufacturers, wholesalers and retailer to check the rise in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) and (b) The pricing of the commodities by and large is determined by those involved in production and trading. The Packaged Commodities Rules *inter alia*, seek to protect the consumer from arbitrary charging of prices by the retailers. Fixation of prices of profit margins for manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers is outside the scope of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act and the rules thereunder.

Raids on hoarders

2053. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently declared to come down heavily on hoarders to bring down the prices of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the number of raids conducted on hoarders during the months of June, July and August, 1990 in the Capital and other parts of the country;

(c) the details of the raids conducted and whether it has any impact on the decline in the prices of essential commodities; and

(d) if not, what other measure Government propose to adopt in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) According to the information received from 21 States/UTs including Delhi, 4189 raids were conducted and goods worth about Rs. 80.6 lakhs confiscated in June, 1990 in the country. Upto date information for all States/UTs is not yet available.

Government has accorded highest priority to check the rising trend in prices of essential commodities. Both long term and short term measures are being taken for the purpose. The measures taken by the Government broadly include steps to increase the production of essential commodities, effective procurement and buffer stocking operations of foodgrains, strengthening of Public Distribution System, strict enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures; and augmenting domestic supplies through imports (e.g. edible oils) subject to over-all constraints of foreign exchanges resources.

Release of edible oil stock by NDDB

2054. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the NDDB to release their edible oils stocks in consultation with the State Governments to check the spurt in prices; and

(b) if so, what are the other directives issued by Government to the NDDB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Under the Integrated Policy on Edible oil/Oilseeds, National Dairy Development Board has been appointed as market intervention agency with full functional autonomy to undertake market intervention activities such as timely purchase and sale of edible oils and oilseeds to achieve the objective of the Integrated Policy. NDDB has been in touch with the State Governments whenever deemed necessary.

Increase in the availability of tea, kerosene and cement

2055. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to increase the availability of essential items like tea, kerosene and cement; and

(b) what measures are being considered in that regard?